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REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Ms. Chris DENELL (Sweden)

Chapter ___

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

(Agenda item 11)

1. The Commission considered item 11 of its agenda at its 478th meeting, on 28 February 1995. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the 1990 and 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programmes (E/CN.3/1995/18).

2. Population and housing censuses put heavy demands on the statistical and administrative resources of a country and require thorough preparations well in advance of the actual census-taking. Concern was expressed at the rising cost of censuses and demands were made for such tools as sampling and other techniques for reducing the costs of future censuses. The need to meet user requirements in planning and producing census products both for the country as a whole and for its subdivisions was emphasized, and the discussion also covered the usefulness of the Geographical Information System (GIS) and PopMap in censuses; the relation of population censuses to other censuses, e.g., agricultural censuses; and the need for new manuals, such as a manual on classifications. The regional commissions reported on their planned census activities.

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3. The representative of Ghana introduced a draft resolution entitled "2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme", for consideration by the Commission. Many representatives spoke in support of the draft resolution and endorsed it.

Action taken by the Commission

4. The Commission:

(a) Endorsed the proposed preparations for the 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme;

(b) Approved the preparation and timely dissemination of handbooks on census methods and training materials, and the preparation of the planned workshops;

(c) Endorsed the convening of an expert group on the 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme to consider, inter alia, concepts and definitions of families and households, recommendations on housing censuses, and the exploitation of census data, such as migration and gender-specific information;

(d) Stressed the importance of undertaking technical cooperation activities in collaboration with the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and national statistical offices;

(e) Emphasized the application of GIS/PopMap techniques and facilities for disseminating provisional census data in an on-line environment.